

How unusual was Monday's warm weather?

Unseasonably warm temperatures spread across Iowa on Monday, December 3rd as southwesterly winds increased ahead of an approaching cold front. Many locations broke their daily high temperature records and several tied their records for the highest temperature ever recorded in December. At Des Moines the previous record for December 3rd...63 degrees set in 1998...was broken before 10 am. Below are some preliminary high temperatures reported around Iowa along with the daily and monthly records at each location coming into Monday:

STATION	HIGH TEMPERATURE	DAILY RECORD	DECEMBER RECORD
Des Moines	69	63 (1998)	69 (12/28/1984)
Waterloo	67	62 (1962)	67 (12/05/2001)
Mason City	63	62 (1962)	67 (12/01/1998)
Ottumwa	71	64 (1998)	71 (12/04/1998)
Lamoni	68	66 (1962)	68 (12/28/1984)
Burlington	72	71 (1970)	73 (12/04/1998)
Cedar Rapids	68	64 (1998)	69 (12/04/1998)
Quad Cities	69	69 (1970)	71 (12/04/1998)
Dubuque	64	64 (1970)	67 (12/04/1998)
Sioux City	60	61 (1998)	71 (12/06/1939)
Omaha	62	64 (1959)	72 (12/06/1939)

As can be seen from the above table, daily records were broken across about the eastern two thirds of Iowa and all-time December high temperature records were tied at several stations around central Iowa. The last time a day this warm occurred in December was in 1998, when many areas across eastern and southeastern Iowa reached the lower 70s on the 4th as indicated above. The highest temperature ever recorded anywhere in Iowa in December is 74 degrees which was measured at Thurman on December 6th, 1939, a day on which many areas of western Iowa established December warmth records that still stand today.